Construction projects to cause few disruptions

Various improvement projects will continue across campus this summer, but unlike last year, they will cause few disruptions.

The only one that is expected to interfere with normal campus life is the redesign of Fountain Plaza to add more green space, seating and shade and to make the area’s geometric shape less rigid.

Peter Stazdas, associate vice president for facilities management, says a landscape architect as well as a construction manager have been hired for the project, and construction fencing will be installed around the plaza after the June commencement.

“That part of campus will be disrupted until mid-August, but we’ll do as much as possible to minimize it,” Strazdas says. “By early June, we should have a meeting set up with building coordinators in the area and a detailed fencing map ready. And we’ll keep moving the fence in as more areas of the plaza are finished.”

The only other noteworthy disruptions this summer will come from paving work.

The approximate dates for this work are early July through early August for repaving Lot 46 between Sangren Hall and the Siebert Administration Building and mid-July to Aug. 1 for repaving and curb work on West Michigan Avenue from in front of the Bernhard Center to the turnaround.

Among the most noticeable ongoing projects that the campus community will be able to keep tabs on this summer is Phase II of the Western View Apartments. The work will add two apartment buildings and a clubhouse to the popular new housing complex when they go online this fall.

The complex is designed for single students.
Tickets on sale now for upcoming seasons
Miller Auditorium and the University Theatre have announced their 2013-14 lineups. The state’s third-largest theatre, Miller serves as the premiere venue for Broadway shows, along with top-name concerts, comedy acts and other campus entertainment. University Theatre presents performances by Department of Theatre students and guest artists in the most intimate facilities of the Gilmore Theatre complex. The auditorium’s new season will kick off with Hal Holbrook in “Mark Twain Tonight” Oct. 5 followed by Sinbad Oct. 11. Patrons will be treated to the smash-hit musical comedy “The Addams Family” less than two weeks later, followed by other Broadway productions such as “Mamma Mia!,” “Memphis,” “Million Dollar Quartet” and “Rock of Ages.” By the time the season ends in April, a well-choreographed collection of memorable shows for young and old will be presented. The upcoming University Theatre season will feature world-class guest artists, classic musicals, contemporary comedies and provocative dramas.

D. Terry Williams, emeritus in theatre, will direct the opening show—David Mamet’s “Glengarry Glen Ross.” This award-winning play depicts cutthroat competition in the real estate world and runs from Sept. 26 through Oct. 6.

The season will end with “The King Stag,” Carlos Gozzi’s fairytale for all ages, April 3 through 13. In between, patrons can choose to see everything from “Pride & Prejudice” and an innovative documentary-style play to perennial favorites such as “Ragtime” and “9 to 5.”

Buying a season subscription is the best way to receive discounted tickets for Miller as well as University Theatre shows. Both are on sale now, along with Miller’s Flex Pass subscription. Single-show tickets at Miller will go on sale several weeks before each performance.

To learn more about the upcoming seasons, employee benefits or tickets, visit Miller at millerauditorium.com or call (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858 and visit University Theatre at wmich.edu/theatre or call (269) 387-6222.

Web developer tapped for electronic communication role
Daniel E. Lobelle has been named director of electronic communication, with responsibility for content on the University’s website, mass email, social media and other forms of electronic communication.

Lobelle, who has worked under contract with WMU since 2011, is the developer of a Drupal-based enterprise-wide content management system for the University’s Web presence. Since mid-2012, websites across the University have been migrated into the system, and site managers, editors and contributors have been trained to manage their sites within the Lobelle system. Lobelle will continue to work part-time with WMU, before stepping down earlier this year. She will oversee his unit’s other areas of responsibility.

A 2004 graduate of WMU’s computer science program, Lobelle is a professional with more than a decade of experience in information technology. His background includes positions as an IT specialist with the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Education (now the WMU School of Medicine), IT operations manager for engineering firm Carl Walker Inc., and senior network administrator for West Michigan Heart. He also has been a contractor, freelance Web developer and small-business owner.

Electronic communication is part of the Office of University Relations, which also includes news services, media relations, creative services, design, marketing, publications and related areas.

Lobelle replaces Toriya Darlach, who had served in the director’s role for a year before stepping down earlier this year. She continues to work part-time with WMU, focusing on special projects. Other members of the electronic communication team are Cara Barnes, assistant director of electronic communication, and Bradley Horstman, Web manager.

National story spotlights WMU’s contributions to the arts
WMU garnered the most attention in a national story published last month that takes an in-depth look at the contributions Michigan colleges and universities make to the arts. The seven-page feature, “Arts Patrons for the 21st Century,” ran in the Chronicle of Higher Education’s May 10 issue. It can be found online at chronicle.com/article/Arts-Patrons-for-the-21st/139037. In that first-person piece, writer Lawrence Biemiller argues that higher education institutions keep the arts alive—and thriving—in an era of uncertain support.

Biemiller came to that conclusion after attending some of the 3,000 arts events WMU annually stages and by also attending various events at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and several other schools on his tour. With her abilities in college research, university relations, is the author of “Opening the Door to Major Gifts: Mastering the Discovery Call,” which was published in May by Charity Channel Press. The book specifically considers the important cultivation relationships with people identified as potential major donors.

It reveals strategies for making a first visit, ideas for finding new major donors and concepts for planning major donor visits. The work is endorsed by some of the world’s leading fundraising professionals, including Laura Fredricks, Gail Perry, Guy Mallabone and Harvey McKinnon.

Biemiller previously was news reporter and public relations director for Kalamazoo College. He earned a bachelor’s degree from WMU in 1983. Additional information about his book is available online at about.me/johngreenhoe.

Alumna earns top employee honors
Demetria Jones, a graduate assistant in the social work field education office who graduated in April, has been selected from among 66 nominees and more than 3,900 WMU student employees as the 2012-13 Student Employee of the Year.

Since 2012, Jones has worked in the social work field education office with Jennifer Harrison, Field Education Coordinator.

Jones has used her skills to help advance the School of Social Work in several ways. With her abilities in college research, university relations, she led an effort to compile years of paper files into a searchable electronic database. Also, she assisted the primary coordinator in training social work students and faculty in field instruction.

Editor’s Note: Visit wmich.edu/news/ obituaries for full obituaries.
An online video game that uses 3D gaming technology to introduce current and prospective students to success skills they’ll need in college was unveiled June 3 during the first day of WMU’s 2013 new student orientation. The Broncoland Game is built on the same technology and 3D depiction of the WMU campus used in a groundbreaking online campus tour launched two years ago. That site—the Broncoland Tour—now attracts some 1,000 visitors monthly. The video game allows players to connect with the campus while teaching them essential skills that will help them be successful during their first year in college. Using the game, student-players attend classes, eat and work out, make friends, do homework, attend events, and race toward the end of a 10-week semester.

Project Director Kevin Abbott, information technology, says the game is designed to allow students to use a format they enjoy to experience some common problems they might face as first-year students. As they play the game, they learn which campus services and offices are available to help them through such problems. “We wanted to give students a tool that would help them avoid the common first-semester pitfalls and be ready to excel when they arrive on campus for classes,” Abbott says.

Abbott and a team of more than a dozen students did the programming; art, visual and game design; interface design; and writing and audio production necessary to bring the game to life. Through the work on both the tour and the game, the team has developed a 3D campus that includes more than 50 buildings, roads, sidewalks and landscaping.

Information about the game can be viewed and the game can be played on a Web browser or downloaded for Mac or Windows computers at wmich.edu/broncoland.

The Broncoland Tour and Game, fairly, are products of the WMU Millennial Project, which recognizes that learning styles and educational goals are different for different generations of students. The project aims to develop more effective strategies for meeting the needs of millennium-generation students—those attending college in the 21st century.

For more information about the Broncoland tour or game, contact Project Director Kevin Abbott, who is also a member of the WMU 21st Century Student Committee, at kevin.abbott@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5125.

Broncoland video game released during student orientation

Nonbargaining groups hold elections, select new leadership for 2013-14

The University’s two nonbargaining groups have selected their leadership for 2013-14. Both the Professional Support Staff Organization and the Administrative Professional Association represent a specific set of Staff Compensation System employees.

Professional Support Staff Organization

Officers for the new year’s Executive Board are: president, Kris Kent, maintenance services; vice president, Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education and Human Development; secretary, Pat Wilcox, payroll and disbursements; and treasurer, Nancy John- son, Office of the Associate Vice President for Finance.

Serving on the board as members at large are: Kandeis-Toi Ross, human resources; Tracee Sherburn, accounting; Bekki Span- jer, grants and contracts; Paige Warner, first-year experience; and Jan Watson, institutional research.

Administrative Professional Association

Officers for the new year’s Executive Board are: president, Faith Wicklund, Miller Auditorium; vice president, Chris Voss, University Recreation; treasurer, Lynda Hunt, development and alumni relations; corresponding secretary, Suzanne BealDusche, development and alumni relations; and recording secretary, Laura Vine, business services.

Serving on the board as representatives of WMU’s academic, administrative, business and finance, or student affairs areas are: Liz Teviodale, Medieval Institute; Mario Gallbreath, information technology; Randy Ott, Center for Academic Success Programs; Kitty Schiefer, College of Health and Hu- man Services; Julie Nemire, music; Roxann “Roxie” Swank, College of Education and Human Development; Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; Michelle Loedeman, accounts receivable; Julie Lenczycki; Facilities Management; Nick Griffith, investments and endowment management; Ashley Les, student affairs; and Wayne Pushie, student affairs. Serving as a past president is Amy Seth, University Recreation.

People are needed to serve on the member- ship, events and professional development committees. If interested, contact Chris Voss at cvoos@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3772.

MORE MONEY FOR MSA RESEARCH—Members of an Ohio family returned May 30 for the second consecutive year to bring to campus money their community has raised to fund promising re- search on multiple system atrophy—MSA. Frank Cervone of Fairborn, Ohio, is dying from MSA, but he’s working to raise awareness of the rare neurological degenerative disease and make sure it will be defeated. He and his colleagues brought a check for $10,000—nearly triple last year’s amount—to fund research being done by Charles Ide, biological sciences; and his students. About $4,000 of the funds were raised through an annual benefit race organized by the Dayton Barefoot Runners. Club members Doug Brandt and Trissa King, accompanied Cervone and his wife to Kalamazoo to present the check to Ide.

Service

Editor’s note: Service anniversaries for July and August will be printed in the first fall issue of Western News.

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during June.

40 Years—Marjory J. Gillette, WMU Bookstore.
35 Years—Paul F. Heinitz, University Libraries.
30 Years—Jerry G. Kreuze, accounting; Tracie Scheffers, accounting; Bekki Spanjer, grants and contracts; Paige Warner, first-year experience; and Jan Watson, institutional research.

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**On Campus**

**with Tracey Lawie**

“T’ve been a theatre buff ever since I was very young,” confesses Tracey Lawie, “so the best part of my job is being able to work in an industry I love.”

Lawie, director of marketing and development for Miller Auditorium, caught the theatre bug when she was in a sixth-grade musical. That led her to perform throughout high school as well as to volunteer at shows while a communication major at Olivet College and go on to earn a master’s degree in arts management from Wayne State University.

After grad school, Lawie worked at a Detroit theatre for a year before joining WMU’s theatre department in 1998 as director of arts management. She became Miller’s sales coordinator in 1999 and was promoted to her current post just three years later.

The job puts her in charge of public relations, media relations and all event marketing. She also assists with programming, writes grants, and oversees subscription and single-ticket sales, promotions, corporate sponsorships, and the Friends of Miller donor program.

A routine part of her job is getting cast members of popular shows to TV interviews—as early as 5:30 a.m.—and attending the promotional and meet-and-greet events she organizes, be they in the auditorium after shows or around town on weekends or holidays.

“We work really hard and long hours, but it’s always fun. You get to meet wonderful people, and there’s never a dull moment. People love working at Miller—they don’t leave,” Lawie says. “And the casts and crews love coming here. They talk about how welcoming people are here and what a beautiful theatre and campus and city we have.”

Among her biggest challenges are doing things well with a small staff and budget and finding ways to publicize Miller offerings on campus. As a reminder, she notes that employees get a 15 percent discount on shows Miller itself presents and the best way for employees to get news of special promotions and schedule additions is to join the E-club.

Lawie has taught a First-Year Seminar class for four years and has helped out with Everyone Counts. Off campus, she has been involved with the Borgess Run campaign and New York’s Broadway League, the Broadway theatre industry’s national trade association. She has a college-age daughter and lives in Kalamazoo with her husband, Wes, whom she married last year. The couple love to ride motorcycles and visit Grand Cayman Island. Lawie is working on getting certified in scuba diving and ran her first half marathon in May. Now, she is training to do her first triathlon in August.

**Construction projects to cause few disruptions**

Construction projects to cause few disruptions **continued from page 1**

without families who have achieved at least sophomore status. It forms a residential neighborhood with features such as a director and resident building managers, apartments for those with mobility challenges, and picnic areas and green space.

The existing four apartment buildings can house 330 students and were at full capacity nearly a year in advance of their fall 2011 opening. The two new apartment buildings will house an additional 174 students.

Meanwhile, activities continue on schedule for several other major projects already underway or recently announced.

• Sangren Hall—Early July should see the parking lot behind Sangren Hall finished. This project will result in a net gain in parking spaces available around Sangren and will include considerable landscaping to improve the area’s attractiveness and drainage.

In addition, contractors will finish installing solar panels on the building’s roof this week. Strasz says information about how much electricity Sangren uses and how much of this usage is offset by the panels will be collected starting Monday, June 10, with the first set of readings revealed Monday, June 17. “By fall, monitors set up in the building’s lobby will display that information in real time,” he adds. “We’re expecting up to a quarter megawatt of renewable energy to be produced from these solar panels.”

• Zhang Legacy Collections Center—Construction on this new home for WMU Archives and Regional History Collections off of Oakland Drive is nearing completion. The unit is operating under reduced hours and will be closed to all walk-in research and instructional services beginning Aug. 1 to prepare for its move. The relocation period is expected to last until mid-October, and a formal dedication ceremony will be held in the fall.

• Medical school building—A structural steel topping ceremony will be held in late August. The event will take place in the facility, which is located at 300 Portage St. and is now formally the University’s W.E. Upjohn Campus. The project is on time and on budget for a soft move-in next summer.

• Making way for new residence halls—Bigelow and Hoekje Halls will officially close early this month. Abatement activities will take place during the summer months, and a site construction fence will wrap the buildings and parking lot in August. Demolition of the two halls will occur in the fall.

**Emergency communication system is changing**

Emergency communication system is changing **continued from page 1**

Users may be charged by cell phone carriers to receive text messages or if a WMU Alert message is one that exceeds a monthly allotment of messages. So before registering a message preference, registrants may want to check their phone plans.

The Reverse 911 system will remain in place through the transition to the new Rave system. Additional details about the new system will be provided after June 11.

**STRENGTHENING TIES—President John M. Dunn**

Dunn spent two weeks overseas in May connecting with University partners and friends. His trip took him first to Beijing to meet with WMU’s Confucius Institute partners at the Beijing Language and Cultural University. His next stop was Japan, where he met with WMU students studying in the country, visited several universities, and attended and spoke at the reunion of Kalamazoo Kai, a group of Japanese who have ties to the University or Kalamazoo.

During the reunion, Dunn, right, met with the group’s keynote founder, Shunichi Fujishima, left. (Photo courtesy of Kalamazoo Kai)